

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 115

Proposing a balanced budget and line-item veto amendment to the  
Constitution of the United States.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 1993

Mr. GRAMS introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a balanced budget and line-item veto amendment  
to the Constitution of the United States.

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-*  
3       *thirds of each House concurring therein), That the follow-*  
4       ing article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitu-  
5       tion of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents  
6       and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by  
7       the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States with-

1 in seven years after the date of its submission for  
2 ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. Prior to each fiscal year, Congress shall  
5 adopt a statement of receipts and outlays for such fiscal  
6 year in which total outlays are not greater than total re-  
7 cepts. Congress may amend such statement provided re-  
8 vised outlays are not greater than revised receipts. Con-  
9 gress may provide in such statement for a specific excess  
10 of outlays over receipts by a vote directed solely to that  
11 subject in which three-fifths of the whole number of each  
12 House agree to such excess. Congress and the President  
13 shall ensure that actual outlays do not exceed the outlays  
14 set forth in such statement.

15 “SECTION 2. Total receipts for any fiscal year set  
16 forth in the statement adopted pursuant to the first sec-  
17 tion of this Article shall not increase by a rate greater  
18 than the rate of increase in national income in the second  
19 prior fiscal year, unless a three-fifths majority of the whole  
20 number of each House of Congress shall have passed a  
21 bill directed solely to approving specific additional receipts  
22 and such bill has become law.

23 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
24 shall transmit to Congress a proposed statement of re-

1 receipts and outlays for such fiscal year consistent with the  
2 provisions of this Article.

3       “SECTION 4. Congress may waive the provisions of  
4 this Article for any fiscal year in which a declaration of  
5 war is in effect.

6       “SECTION 5. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
7 of the United States except those derived from borrowing  
8 and total outlays shall include all outlays of the United  
9 States except those for the repayment of debt principal.

10       “SECTION 6. The amount of Federal public debt as  
11 of the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after  
12 the ratification of this Article shall become a permanent  
13 limit on such debt and there shall be no increase in such  
14 amount unless three-fifths of the whole number of each  
15 House of Congress shall have passed a bill approving such  
16 increase and such bill has become law.

17       “SECTION 7. The President shall have power, when  
18 any bill, including any vote, resolution, or order, which  
19 contains any item of spending authority, is presented to  
20 him pursuant to section 7 of article I of this Constitution,  
21 to separately approve, reduce, or disapprove any spending  
22 provision, or part of any spending provision, contained  
23 therein.

24       “When the President exercises this power, he shall  
25 signify in writing such portions of the bill he has approved

1 and which portions he has reduced. These portions, to the  
2 extent not reduced, shall then become a law. The Presi-  
3 dent shall return with his objections any disapproved or  
4 reduced portions of a bill to the House in which the bill  
5 originated. The Congress shall separately reconsider each  
6 such returned portion of the bill in the manner prescribed  
7 for disapproved bills in section 7 of article I of this Con-  
8 stitution. Any portion of a bill which shall not have been  
9 returned or approved by the President within ten days  
10 (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to  
11 him shall become a law, unless the Congress by their ad-  
12 journment prevent its return, in which case it shall not  
13 become a law.

14       “SECTION 8. Items of spending authority are those  
15 portions of a bill that appropriate money from the Treas-  
16 ury or that otherwise authorize or limit the withdrawal  
17 or obligation of money from the Treasury. Such items  
18 shall include, without being limited to, items of appropria-  
19 tions, spending authorizations, authority to borrow money  
20 on the credit of the United States or otherwise, dedica-  
21 tions of revenues, entitlements, uses of assets, insurance,  
22 guarantees of borrowing, and any authority to incur obli-  
23 gations.

24       “SECTION 9. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Arti-  
25 cle shall take effect for the fiscal year 1997 or for the

1 second fiscal year beginning after its ratification, which-  
2 ever is later. Sections 7 and 8 of this article shall take  
3 effect upon ratification of this article.”.

